

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Craig McCarthy, et al.) Re: Information Disclosure
Statement
Serial No.: 10/763,732) Group: 3752
)
) Examiner: not yet assigned
Filed: January 23, 2004)
) Our Ref: B-5568CONT 951406-4
For: "SECURE CONDUIT (PATHWAY))
SYSTEM FOR...") Date: December 20, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. Copies of the foreign patent documents and the non-patent publications listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) are enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience. Copies of the U.S. patent documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) are not enclosed, pursuant to Deputy Commissioner Stephen G. Kunin's Pre OG Notice dated July 11, 2003, with the exception of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/690,272 because this application has not yet been published yet.

The documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) include those cited in the International Search Report and Written Opinion for the corresponding PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/020357. A copy of the Search Report and Written Opinion (11 pages) is enclosed herewith.

It should be noted that the above-identified application may be related by subject matter to the following U.S. Application(s): 10/690,272, filed October 21, 2003. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a)

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and M.P.E.P. 2004, paragraph 9, the applicant brings these co-pending applications to the attention of the Examiner. The Examiner should consider this information during the prosecution of the above-identified application. However, citation of these applications does not constitute an admission that the claims of the present application are substantially similar or similar to those of the applications listed above.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The Applicants believe that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, please contact the undersigned to authorize a payment of \$180.00 (or any other required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), if the Examiner believes that such a fee is due in order for this IDS to be considered on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

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The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", on December 20, 2004 by Shana Morda.



Respectfully submitted,

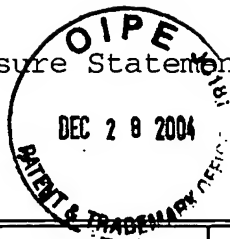


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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of Search Report for PCT/US2004/020357 (11 pages)
Copy of Non-U.S. Patent documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified), with the exception of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/690,272

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Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	ATTY DOCKET NO. B-5568CONT 951406-4	U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/763,732
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT	APPLICANT(S) Craig McCarthy, et al.	
	FILING DATE January 23, 2004	GROUP 3752

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE or 102(e) DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	10/690,272		McCarthy et al.			10/21/2003
	3,091,657	11/1962	Stuessel	174	68	
	6,150,610	11/2000	Sutton	174	68.3	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
	296 06 102	7/1996	DE			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.